



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

December 23, 2013

Dear _____:

We are sending this letter to you as part of the Health Department's commitment to patient privacy. We take matters of this nature very seriously, so it is important to us that you are made fully aware of a potential privacy issue. We have learned that a disk containing a pharmacy file that included your name, birthdate, address, medication, the date your prescription was filled, quantity dispensed, medication National Drug Code number, and your physician's name may have been compromised. Social Security Numbers (SSNs) are not included in the pharmacy file.

Pharmacy files are routinely shared with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Office of Epidemiology in an effort to manage the state's ADAP program. On November 4, 2013, the Health Department mailed the disk containing your pharmacy file information to the VDH Post Office Box. On November 19, 2013 the VDH Office of Epidemiology notified the Health Department that they had not received the disk. Upon investigation of this incident the Health Department confirmed that the disk had been mailed to the accurate VDH Post Office Box; however, the VDH Office of Epidemiology has no record of receiving it. The Health Department takes this potential breach very seriously and therefore continues to work with the Postal Service and VDH to locate the disk. However, we do not consider it reasonable to delay notification based on the hope that the disk may be recovered. Accordingly, we are providing this notice even though we have no knowledge that your information has been compromised.

The Health Department is committed to providing quality care, including the protection of your personal information; therefore we sincerely apologize and regret that this situation occurred. Although the Health Department has in place multiple policies and procedures needed to protect health information, this incident has lead us to review our current process for sharing the ADAP pharmacy file with the Virginia Department of Health in order to prevent such occurrences in the future.

If you have further questions you may contact the Fairfax County Health Department HIPAA Privacy Officer Shauna Severo at 703-246-8776 or George Ward the Fairfax County HIPAA Compliance Manger at 703-324-5801.

Sincerely,

Gloria Addo-Ayensu, MD, MPH
Director of Health

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